



The Bell Ringer

Montgomery Bell Academy

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MBA swept along by technology wave

Computers, the Internet find seats in the classroom

by Gabe Roth and Matt Leathrop

Some twelve years ago, MBA bought its first computers for the administration. Over the years, the school fell behind on the latest trends, but MBA is finally catching up to the forefront of technology. Dr. Gaffney, who has played an important role in improving MBA's computer resources, observed, "With technology... there have been many drastic changes but [they were] slow in coming to MBA... though we [have] tried to keep current."



In the last year, the school has added thirty-five new computers to the library and has given each teacher an IBM Thinkpad (laptop computer). IBMs have outnumbered Macintoshes in the school's recent purchases, reversing a long-standing trend which favored Apple products. According to Alan Halachmi, a junior who has been instrumental in setting up the Thinkpads and Internet access, "The simple answer [why MBA bought more IBMs than Macs] is that IBMs are better. The more complicated answer is that we got them because of the specifics of the grant and the ... laptops' ... insurance policy. MBA is set up to be a

cross-platform prep school...it will always have both [IBMs and Macs]." Dr. Gaffney said "We got [them] with the hope that in two to three years they will still be serviceable because they are so upgradable. Also, there is a warranty of three years [for the Thinkpads]." However, the Thinkpads may not be as beneficial to those many faculty members who prefer to use the Macintosh platform. The school will continue to have its share of Macintosh and IBM users, and there will probably always be some division and difference in opinion about the virtues of those two platforms.

Although MBA has not always been a leader in computer innovation, the school has bought many technological items since Dr. Gaffney first came here. Gaffney stated, "When I first came to MBA twenty-one years ago, the school had one electric typewriter and a thermofax machine (a primitive copier). Also, student handouts were done on a mimeograph, and computer classes were taught with a teletype machine that would spit out long strips of paper like ticker tape used in an accounting machine." (continued on page 3)

Service club breaks new ground this year

Helping hands take part in big projects

by William Gilmore

The Service Club has begun the school year with fresh leadership and plans for an exciting mix of new and old projects. The year's activities began with MBA's first Habitat for Humanity project in



Patrick Hitt, Will McInnes, Matt Beasley, and Mr. Bob at the Habitat house

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conjunction with Harpeth Hall, in which a majority of the school body participated. The student response was fantastic, and plans are already in the works for a second Habitat project. The Habitat project was, however, only the first of an expanded range of projects.

Service Club President Matt Beasley said, "This (continued on page 2)

Service Club (continued)

year, the Service Club is attempting to get involved in projects that move away from the area surrounding the school. Ideally, we would like to be involved in more service projects that give students a chance to experience all of Nashville. Currently, plans are being made for MBA and Harpeth Hall students to help at Radnor Lake on a monthly basis by cleaning up the area, carving out new trails, and improving existing ones. In addition, students will have the opportunity to perform odd jobs, such as painting a fence or maintenance work at Our Kids, a center for

abused children, on the third Saturday of every month. Club members will also help to set up Christmas Village in the early winter. When Second Harvest Food Bank holds a reverse parade with Channel 2 News at Centennial Park in November, the Club will collect and sort donated recyclables. The Service Club is continuing to help with the Soup Kitchen, in which MBA students buy, prepare, and serve food to needy

people on the first Saturday of every month.

The Service Club is also providing assistance for tutoring programs such as the Boys' and Girls' Club. On October 12, Service Club helped at the Southern Festival of Books at Legislative Plaza by sorting and setting up books.

The Service Club has an improved constitution and new officers this year. The constitution has been entirely redrafted, and the process by which credits are given has been completely changed. Mem-

bers will now receive one credit per service hour. To remain in good standing, a member must have earned ten credits per quarter for three quarters. To be eligible for the next year's elections, members must have ten credits for all four quarters. A maximum of five credits will be carried over from each previous quarter. Matt Beasley and Joey Hills were elected president and vice-president, respectively, last year. Sam O'Connell and Jesse Eaves were designated as next year's president and vice-president. Elections for the rest of the 1997 officers will be held at the end of this year.



Martin Sanders horses around with Time to Rise participants.

Visual arts faculty: models of talent

Davis Gallery displays MBA and Harpeth Hall work

The art gallery in the Davis building started the school year with a show of the art of the MBA and Harpeth Hall faculty. MBA teachers Rosie Paschall, James Womack, and Matthew Pedersen and Harpeth Hall teachers Ann Blackburn, Peter Goodwin, and Cati Victorisz exhibited work which dealt with autobiographical subjects. Mrs. Paschall's paintings concentrated on South African myths and stories while Mr. Womack's and Mr. Pedersen's pieces depicted scenes from their years in college. According to Mr. Womack, the teachers decided to put on the show because "We're art teachers ... I think it's useful for stu-

dents to know what kind of art their teachers do." To their disappointment, however, the teachers received virtually no feedback from the student body. Mr. Womack said "I wish we had heard more - anything - from students.

Just some kind of feedback - period." The faculty art show closed at the end of September. The gallery recently contained a collection of paintings by Paul Zeppelin's students from the Centennial Club.



Smaidone gains inspiration from the Muse

News Briefs

National Merit Commendees

Current students John Buchanan, Rob Gabbert, Ben Gambill, Matt Hale, Kenshin Ichikawa, Aaron Lara, Adam Laughbaum, Joe Montgomery, Chris Nalbantyan, Robert Ross, Tyson Tune, and Adam Vahrenkamp all received National Merit Commendations for their scores on the PSAT last year.

Baer Goes Gold

Congratulations to Coach Baer, who recently accepted a job as Assistant Women's Lacrosse Coach at Vandy, specializing in goalies. Coach Baer will continue as MBA's Lacrosse coach and video guru despite his new job.

Boutros-Boutros...

Big Red teacher John Leach will lead the MBA Model UN Team into the Nashville Convention Center on November 23 to conquer the world at the State Model UN Tournament. MBA teams will represent Far Eastern Bloc powers China and Nepal in their attempt to score one for Mao.

SACS! (No, not...)

If you see strangers on the campus November 4, take kindly to them. A Southern Association Visiting Committee will be on campus as part of their once-every-five-years evaluation of MBA's facilities and program. The evaluation is an important part of MBA's accreditation.

Tech. introduction (continued)

"Under Dr. Paschall in the late 80's, we set up the first Location Area Network [to link the computers at MBA]. From that we went to a separate network in the library to put MBA's collection [of books, magazines, etc.] on computers. We also set up a link to the Vanderbilt University library under the Accorn system. The library is the focus of technology at MBA and is the place where the server is going to go ... as the entryway for the Internet."

With all the new computer technology, it can be hard for faculty members to understand how to use the various pieces of new equipment. Gaffney remarked that "there is a need to raise the computer literacy of the faculty, and [everyone] needs ... to take advantage of technology in general."

In addition to acquiring new computers, MBA is trying to link its current holdings to the Internet and a school network. "The school," said Halachmi, "is embarking on a new project to wire the campus with fiber optic networking, hoping to install an ATM [45 Mb line] backbone for the purpose of long-distance learning." Networking the campus has been a major operation for Drs. Gaffney and Neergard along with Halachmi, who is currently putting in the final link for the network. In order to stay current

with the latest advances in technology, MBA is installing various Internet services. "After I ... put in the final link of the Internet," stated Alan Halachmi, "I anticipate MBA's World Wide Web presence to be complete."

The school also has set up its own World Wide Web page. Both Gaffney

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and Halachmi want the web site to reflect the work of a number of students. Halachmi hopes "that several other students will join in creating the page, so it can reflect the diverse student body as well as the school itself."

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Safety is a significant issue regarding the future networking of computers on campus. The school has addressed the possibility of network failure by using a self-healing network in which files can be backed up and the likelihood of a total failure is decreased relative to other types of networks. In addition, if someone were to break in, the chance of that person

escaping identification would be slim because of the many security checks and logs the computers keep. Halachmi commented, "We have had an incident where a person attempted [to break in]. He didn't realize that the school computers keep numerous logs of all users and interactions through the World Wide Web, Telnet, FTP, etc. He was caught and punished."

On the minds of computer literate as well as curious students are questions of when they will receive Internet access. According to Halachmi, "After the library renovation is completed and the computers are in place, students will receive immediate Internet access." The question that remains is, "How much Internet access will the student body have?" Halachmi said that students will not be able to "explore beyond the acceptable uses of the Internet," and Dr. Gaffney explained that "if a French student wants to learn about the French culture on the Internet, he may do so and is encouraged to share."

Dr. Gaffney added that the amount of Internet access "needs to involve the students and faculty ... [and], to a certain extent, the parents should know what's happening. Parents are not going to want full [Internet] capability, but things like the NetNanny are repulsive ... The students have a very big responsibility in that respect."

News Briefs

Internet Access Available

Each of MBA's science labs is now wired for Internet access. Students wishing to avail themselves of the new technology will have to abide by an "Accepted Use Policy", which requires the student to agree to use the equipment for educational purposes only. Students may access the Internet as much as they want from MBA without running up large bills.

TSSAA Split Update

MBA has agreed to participate in the financial aid division of the TSSAA next year. The policy allows for MBA to continue giving aid to students who happen to participate in athletics, and allows MBA to compete against non-aid giving schools during the regular season. Separate playoffs will be held for the aid-giving schools (like MBA) and the schools without financial aid.

Varsity Debate

Led by senior captains Brian Stults and Michael Risen, semifinalists at the prestigious Wake Forest Earlybird Tournament, MBA entries have steamrolled the competition, breaking at every journey attended from Decatur, Alabama, to the Greenhill School in Dallas. The other Varsity teams of Mark Yopp and Nathan Sabel, and Rob Humbracht and Josh Hildreth have compiled impressive records, with Sabel and Yopp breaking at the Greenhill School tournament, and Hildreth and Humbracht finishing as top seed at the end of the preliminary rounds at Wake—an unprecedented feat for juniors. Later this semester, Mr. Coverstone and Mr. Tate will lead the teams to tournaments in Chicago and Birmingham.

JV and Novice Debate

MBA's JV Debate Team is just as impressive as the Varsity units, with teams breaking at Wake Forest, Valley High School, and Decatur. Under Mr. DeYoung's tutelage, the MBA novices have reached the elimination rounds at the Decatur and Austin Peay tournaments, winning several speaker awards in the process.

Homecoming Court

MBA's students elected every homecoming representative from Harpeth Hall except one. Seniors receiving the most votes were Beth Sherrard, Carrie Smith, and Grace Verner. The Juniors elected Caroline Coles and Miller Greathouse while the sophomores chose Allison Williams of Brentwood High. Freshman Tricia McWilliams won hearts of her M.B.A. peers by capturing the only freshman spot.



Is substance abuse policy clear and adequate?

Alcohol and drug policy needs clarification

by Raja Gaddipati

In the light of recent events, discussion concerning MBA's chemical substance policy has become more heated and common across the campus. When asked to clarify MBA's position, Mr. Gioia said, "In effect, I think that you could argue that MBA does have a twenty-four hour rule ... if something does happen off school hours, we'll do something about it. On the other hand, I am not in the business of checking up on what students are doing every weekend." MBA's policy and restrictions are stated but often misunderstood. The use of tobacco is forbidden, on and off campus, for all MBA students, even those who are in compliance with legal age restrictions. Incidents of to-

bacco usage will be referred to the Discipline Committee; its decision will be sustained or amended by the headmaster. The same procedure is used if a student is found guilty of consuming an alcoholic beverage. Finally the use, sale, or possession of illegal narcotics will result in immediate dismissal. MBA's requirements are not, however, out of the ordinary. For example, Brentwood Academy requires all students under the age of 21 to sign a contract stating that they will refrain from alcohol, tobacco, and drug use 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The first violation results in a meeting between an intervention team and the student's parents. Immediate suspension is not automatic for drug use; rather, each situation is examined individually. Unfortunately, the enforcement of any sub-

stance abuse policy presents MBA's administration with a substantial dilemma. Mr. Gioia concedes that, "MBA would be blind to say that our students don't drink or use drugs. I think that will continue to happen." The enforcement of the twenty-four hour rule is even more difficult in that MBA cannot continuously monitor student activity. Additionally, the administration can only act when accusations of misconduct are evidenced with public record (e.g., a police report) or a teacher's statement expressing knowledge of impropriety. As a result of this inefficiency, Mr. Gioia says that "less than a handful" of cases have been brought to the attention of the Discipline Committee. No one has been dismissed for a violation of the chemical substance policy in Mr. Gioia's tenure.

Mr. Gioia firmly believes that "every policy should continue to be examined." *The Bell Ringer* agrees, particularly in the case of substance abuse policy. First of all, the school should take greater action toward facilitating prevention of the usage of these substances. One example of such a change would be the expansion of educational opportunities from the Junior School Drug/Sex Education class to the high school (in the form of special assemblies and after-school programs). Merely emphasizing the harms involved with drug use may indeed serve as a deterrent to many students; as a result, the school would not have to be on constant patrol. Furthermore, the text of the chemical substance policy in the *Montgomery Bell Academy Directory and Student Handbook* should be clarified

to avoid confusion within the student body. Also, relevant policies should be amended and consolidated to ensure that all students are treated equally and are sufficiently punished. Finally, and most importantly, is the issue of cooperation on the part of the entire school in enforcing this policy. Teachers and students alike know and recognize those people on campus who disobey the substance rules. Unfortunately, it seems impossible to detect and to legislate all problems related to drugs and alcohol, and everyone of us must take more responsibility in this area. The only viable alternative to a "police state" mentality on the part of the administration is for the MBA community to try harder to make progress on the drug issue. The very futures of students' lives may depend on it.

What is the real driving force behind extracurriculars?

Ultior motives

by Brian Stults

A couple of weeks ago, a friend of mine was trying to convince a freshman to join an activity. My friend began by describing the responsibilities and time commitment associated with joining this particular organization on campus. "Plus, you can put it on your college transcript," my friend remarked to the student. Immediately, the freshman's interest was piqued. Before the conversation was over, it had become obvious that one more student had been recruited for this activity.

It alarms me greatly that so many of us (myself included) forget the real reasons for participating in extracurricular activities. Abstract ideas such as personal development and teamwork have been cast aside. Instead, students at MBA and across the nation are increasingly motivated by incentives and reasons that have nothing to do with personal gratification. This train of thought has led many students to believe that more is indeed better and that breadth is more important than depth.

The consequences of believing these ideas are devastating. First of all, the student that is

overinvolved has been woefully misled. Mr. Patrick, MBA's Director of College Counseling, is quick to point out that the student that does a few activities well is more attractive to colleges than a student who does many activities poorly. Participation in an excess of activities might even reflect a student's inability to make decisions. Second, participation in a myriad of extracurricular activities prevents students from performing their best in each of them. MBA's strict academic requirements are a call to students to make choices and allocate their time well. Failure to do so means that

both a student's academic and extracurricular work will suffer. Such a student can never excel in any one or two areas because he is constantly dragged down by the requirements and obligations of his other activities.

The philosophical arguments against over-involvement are equally compelling. Quite simply, excessive involvement rarely makes the student "happy." Rather, the desire to make oneself happy is supplanted in the hope of pleasing someone else or gaining accolades or college acceptance. This rationale for commitments is (continued pg. 11)

Are senior privileges fair or unfair to underclassmen?

Seniors overprivileged

New privileges create problems for underclassmen

by Anonymous Freshman

At the beginning of each school year, the Senior Class Officers ask Mr. Gioia for select privileges. Some are accepted, and some are denied, but it is quite astounding to see what the seniors want, and what they receive.

Almost all underclassmen agree that the new privilege of seniors being able to cut everyone else in the lunch line is horrible. Every day going to lunch, the same thing happens to me. I run to get some Chewy Gobstoppers and a milk when, all of a sudden, eight seniors rush to the front of the line and knock over my drink and food just so they can exercise their unfair privilege. We underclassmen don't particularly enjoy being pushed and shoved every day in the lunch line. We

rush out of our classes only to have to wait in the line for twenty minutes. This privilege is quite a joke, and underclassmen hope that it will be abolished soon.

Another item I would like to address is the request by seniors for a recreation center on campus. Seriously, do they really need a refrigerator, a foosball set, a television, or even a POKER TABLE?!!! These privileges were rightly denied, and so were many other stupid requests, such as hammocks on campus.

Some privileges are fine, such as having seniors join faculty meetings and gaining use of the junior parking lot. These privileges could actually become helpful in the long run for the school and its student body.

Senior privileges are acceptable in some fashions. However, when it comes to extremities such as the current lunch room situation, the train of thought of future seniors needs to be re-routed.

Seniors deserve privilege

Waah, Waah - A few insights for MBA's underclassmen

by Russell Taber, Senior Class President

I have compassion and respect for the concerns and feelings of underclassmen (yes, even freshmen). Five years ago, during my eighth grade year at MBA, I experienced how tough it was to be new. I remember bitterness towards the older guys who could seemingly get whatever they wanted. In spite of underclassmen and even faculty popular belief, however, there are reasons for a little emphasis on seniors. The senior class is, in effect, the report card on the school. Who gets in to which colleges with what scholarships indicates, to some extent, the success of the school. Among other things, privileges give seniors a chance to relax and take a break from the pressures of standardized testing, applications, and deciding on a college.

First, ask the faculty how much fun they had last year regulating the lunch flow for the first ten minutes of lunch. Mr. Gioia and the senior class officers came up with a compromise plan that allowed both the teachers and seniors to go into lunch early while not forcing a teacher to miss his or her own lunch. Seniors believe this privilege is "key," while the underclassmen pretend to be bullied. Have you underclassmen thought about waiting outside for ten minutes before entering Frist? That way you could avoid all the pretended abuse. Use a little self-control and wait your turn. You won't starve to death, I promise. By the way, the class of '97 had to

wait every year I have been here (8th through 11th) before going into lunch. Imagine waiting as an eighth grader for freshmen to get their lunch. Then, turn around as a freshman and watch the microbes munch before you could. My advice to freshmen: use your brain and don't cry to the senior class about it. '97, can I get a witness?

Secondly, who asked for a senior "recreation center"? Harpeth Hall has a senior house equipped with a T.V., radio, refrigerator, microwave, and all the posters a girl could want—but I don't think it is a "recreation center." Should we have asked for a heated, outdoor swimming pool and a small movie theater? Maybe we should found the Montgomery Bell Academy Senior Class Country Club. Every class at MBA that I have ever heard of has had a senior room. Is it so wrong to give the student leaders of the school a place to relax? Since our campus is being remodeled, last year's senior room was converted into a classroom. Mr. Gioia, therefore, assigned the Robert's Room as the senior lounge until the second semester. In response to the alleged absurdity of some of the requests, what is the worst thing that Mr. Gioia can say? You guessed it: "no." For you freshmen out there, you have to take risks in life in order to succeed. By the way, foosball rocks!

Encourage your student government to get to know the school's administration. You'll find that Mr. Gioia is very reasonable. When your time has truly come and the class of '97 is long gone, you'll find it easier to communicate your ideas and requests to the headmaster and get some privileges of your own.

The Bell Ringer

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Hassellhoff versus Lamas - the legend continues

The Hoss reviews syndicated TV shows

by Robert Ross

I want to draw attention to a neglected phenomenon: syndicated TV shows starring buxom, bikini-clad lasses hoping to break into showbiz and washed-up TV and movie stars. These shows give us the best WXMT-30 can afford. So, without further ado, here's my tribute to the ugly, redheaded stepchildren of Nielsen!

Renegade: My all-time fave. Lorenzo Lamas stars as Reno Raines, a fugitive from the law framed by a corrupt police chief. Raines works as a bounty hunter for Bobby Six Killer, his faithful Indian companion (*Lone Ranger* stereotypes, anyone?). Incidentally, Six Killer's sister is a full-blooded Indian with blue eyes and blond hair (coincidentally, this character is played by Lamas' ex-wife). Using his patented roundhouse kick and a well-aimed M-60 machine gun, Reno fights against bigotry, Deliberance rejects, and people who have a problem with long hair. Sports stars with absolutely no acting ability at all (Sugar Ray Leonard, Barry Bonds, etc.) show up from time to time in order to meet alimony or debt deadlines. The director makes up for the show's lack of plot and Lamas' lack of talent with random scenes of Reno driving his motorcycle on California state highways at sunset for as many as 15 minutes per episode. Best line: "He's not only smart - he's good breeding stock!"

Charles in Charge: The syndicated TV show that won't die. This late 80's reject, starring Scott Baio as yet another Italian housekeeper (remember Tony Danza?), is not funny - it's stupid. If you like Corey and Corey films, you'll like this show.

Kung Fu: The Legend Continues: David Carradine plays a kung-fu fighting Shao-Lin priest. With the slowest reflexes possibly ever seen in a martial arts master and the help of his police detective son, the dentured warrior battles evildoers in Chinatown, such as bad guys from rival ninja clans with even slower reflexes. Definitely a good show for a boring Saturday - especially because Kane fights Chinese warlords about every two weeks, all of whom are played by the same short skinny bald guy with a fu manchui. This show has taught me that the slower you speak and the more you wave around your hands, the wiser you are.

Baywatch Nights: Where all the action takes place during the night. Stephan Schirmer's favorite TV lifeguard, David Hassellhoff, has a thriving P.I. biz on the side and can somehow afford Armani and Hugo Boss on a lifeguard's salary. Meant to have more substance than the original *Baywatch*, this show lacks the appeal (Pamela, Yasmine, and swimsuits) of the original.

Highlander: Has the most attractive women outside of *Baywatch*. Sean Connery wanna-be Adrian Paul stars as Quentin McCloud, the Scottish immortal whose mission is to sleep with as many women as possible before getting his head chopped off. The pretty good sword fighting scenes and Adrian Paul's status as the man make this show a must-see for those with testosterone.

Author's Note: All *Star Trek* fans can keep quiet. *Star Trek* (Voyager, TNG, DS9, and clone Babylon 5) should have died in the 60's. Shows whose fans dress in black pajamas, stick pipes to their heads, and walk around muttering "I am Borg. I am Borg," do not deserve mention in this article.

Aliens, action, and Alcatraz

Summer movies coming soon on video offer a mixed bag of action and quality

by Gary Braren

Well, the summer's over, but the movies it spawned will be appearing on video fairly soon. Being the benevolent god I am, I want to weed out the summer chaff from the virtuous.

With this summer's barrage of movies, the audience was yet again faced with films of the entertainment-not-art variety. The summer began with the ultimate in mindless entertainment, *Turster*, a film I'm sure most of you enjoyed, but which disappointed me. *Turster*, starring Industrial Light and Magic, proved to have no characters, no plot, and no entertainment value whatsoever. Michael Crichton and his wife (who co-wrote the film) should be

dragged into the street for public ridicule for writing such garbage.

Now, I will proceed to films that are worthy of my attention. *Independence Day* had to be the ultimate nationalistic, commercialized sci-fi fest of all time. Although I entered the theater with some serious doubts about this movie (it comes from the makers of *StarGate*), I was so impressed I went back to see it twice more (USA! USA!). The secrets of its success were a great cast, a totally unrealistic plot, and Area 51 (where medieval dungeons and modern laboratories coexist).

Even better than *ID-4* was *The Rock*, starring Sean Connery, Nicholas Cage, and Ed Harris. This was the greatest action film of all time. If you disagree, you're wrong. With such awesome leads, a good supporting cast, and some of the best directing in an action film I've ever seen, *The Rock* was the summer blockbuster. The other action film worthy of your awe

was *Escape from L.A.*, starring Kurt Russell, proving once again that Snake Plissken is not the kind of guy your sister should bring home. Almost exactly the same as John Carpenter's earlier cult classic, *Escape from New York*, this movie provides good humor, characters, and wicked action.

The best movie of the summer, the year, and one of the best ever, was *Trainspotting*, an independent Scottish release which was far above the rest of the rabble this summer. Ironically, I doubt any of you saw this movie, or even care about it. Tough. *Trainspotting* chronicled the heroin-inspired exploits of a few friends from Edinburgh. With Ewan MacGregor in the lead, an incredible screenplay, the coolest movie soundtrack this year, and some excellent directing from Danny Boyle, this movie was one for the ages.

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Features

The Bell Ringer



Dark of the Moon eclipses Hill

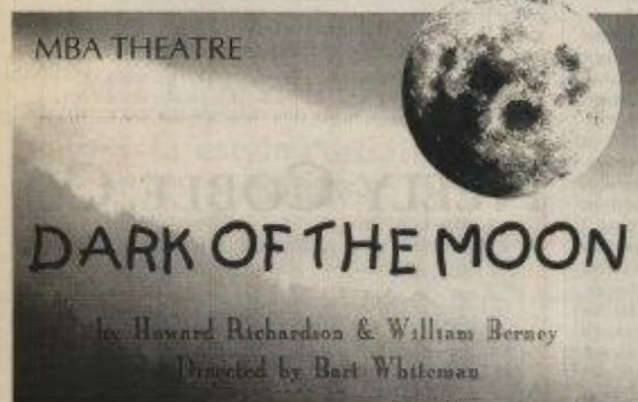
A mix of witches and hillbillies stirs up the campus

by Gabe Roth

Brent Elrod refusing to turn Chris Callister into a human? Gary Braren as "the strongest man in the county"? Adam Vahrenkamp as a preacher? And Jonathan Sewell drinking corn liquor and shooting at a large eagle? All of these hard-to-believe situations occur in MBA's fall theater production, *Dark of the Moon*, written by Howard Richardson and William Berney.

Set in a small town in the Great Smoky Mountains of Eastern Tennessee,

John, a witch played by Chris Callister, and Barbara Allen, a strong young woman played by Katy Manter, are the lead roles in a thirty-six member cast. The two worlds of witches and humans collide when John and Barbara fall in love. Although Brent Elrod, as Conjur Man, does not make John into a human, Jennie Smith, as Conjur Woman, does. For John to remain with Barbara, all Barbara has to do is be "faithful" to him for a year. Given that "she has done a lot of living in her nineteen years," this stipulation could turn into a problem: do the two live happily ever after? They do



see, this play deals with humans who live in the valley, the witches who occupy the highlands, and what happens when their worlds cross. The plot is universal; a similar story line is used in *Romeo and Juliet*. However, in *Dark of the Moon*, Southern dialect dominates the play's dialogue. Like MBA's performance last spring, *Inherit the Wind*, this play once again implies that our state is full of illiterate hillbillies. However, the contrasting lifestyles of the humans and witches set up an eerie mood in the story. The witches move around in a certain spooky way with their eccentric rituals. Even the humans conduct themselves in a peculiar manner by often gathering at the town's general store and voicing their strong Christian beliefs.

not, as Barbara is raped in the church (ironic, isn't it?), and by not being "faithful," John turns back into a witch. Also, Barbara dies as a result of a bet between the witches: if she was faithful she would live; if not she would die.

Director Bart Whiteman affirmed that the play is very complex and "very hard to do." At a post-rehearsal meeting with the cast, he told the young actors and actresses to try to reach out to the audience and move them emotionally in the small portion of their hearts that would be sensitive. The pep talk led the players to work magic on the large crowds that came throughout the weekend.

What about Bob?



The Cato craze has subsided, but for how long?

by Louis Oliver and Stuart Berkhalter

As we wander through the hallways and bathrooms of our esteemed school, an empty feeling arises. No longer do we see the familiar sights of graffiti such as "Bob Cato Saves," "Cato is God," and many others which we cannot print. Where is Bob? His popularity and cult following have diminished over the past year, and this decline leads us to ask: Who is Bob? A mythical folk hero? A cultural icon? The Antichrist? No one may ever know. Therefore, we asked our respected student body what they think of Bob Cato:

"Bob?...I mean, what can you say?" — Jared Ford

"Bob Cato is a good role model for small children." — Jim Ward

"I wanna be, I wanna be, I wanna be like Bob!" — Erik Milam

"Bob Cato: It's not just a name; it's a state of mind." — William Gilmore

"Bob Cato for President." — Mac Hodgson

"Bob Cato should be patronized a saint for all he has done for humanity." — Charlie Corts

"I hate that guy." — Newton Pate

"Bob Cato, he's a great guy. I mean what can you say, his name's a palindrome." — Mr. Heywood Moxley

"A wonderful name for a wonderful man." — Elijah Reynolds

"I'm all for it, I'm Pro-Cato." — Will McMurray

"He's an extremely sexy man." — Cheerleader Maggie Holt

"He's cool." — Peter Callister

"The good book says that Bob will rise again one day." — Louis Oliver

Although he may be gone forever, there have been Bob Cato sightings throughout the school, and some rumor of a Second Coming. Only time will tell.



MBA goes international

The Muscles from Brussels recounts his Big Red experience

Dear Bell Ringer,

Being back in Germany, the "land of beer and the Autobahn" for over three months now, I can reflect on my school year at Montgomery Bell Academy in Nashville, Tennessee. I had a wonderful time and I would like to use this to thank the student body and the teachers for their friendship and hospitality.

MBA is a very special school. I am now in my twelfth year at my school here in Germany. I also spent three months in a boarding school in Limerick, Ireland, in 1993. I have not seen a school like MBA anywhere else. I was especially fascinated by its tradition and its values. In Germany, school plays a completely different role. We students are glad every day when school is out and we can go home, which is around two o'clock. Le., there are no afternoon activities. But it is afternoon activities, especially sports, that create the sense of community and integrity at MBA. I remember very well Monday mornings and their assemblies in the Paschall Theatre. Not a single Monday passed without Mr. Giota presenting some kind of trophy, plaque, or other award. I remember class rings, MBA pants, T-shirts, jackets, blankets, etc. I remember people who had graduated from MBA years ago still saying that the most that they had learned in their lives was learned in high school. I remember hundreds of people coming to football or basketball games on Friday nights. I remember various guest speakers during assembly talking about tradition, honor, and values at MBA. I was - and still am - fascinated by the "gentleman, scholar, athlete" motto. There is not too much free time at MBA. If you want to succeed, you need to work hard, go to school in the morning, participate in sports in the afternoon, and study at night. I am sure there is more free time in Germany, more time between school days, more days off. The very end of the school career, the "Abitur" (a comprehensive exam covering the last two years) might be an exception. But there is a complete lack of school community. One of the reasons for the missing school spirit is the lack of sports in high school. Setting priorities, however, it is obvious that the efforts of students and teachers at MBA are more than rewarding.

I met the group of exchange students who went to the States with ASSIST for a year a few weeks ago. They were all exhilarated by their experiences and I did not hear a single person reporting anything negative. Exchanges between schools and countries must be encouraged. They are a wonderful possibility to be an ambassador of one's country on the one hand, and to get to know a different country with its customs and its culture on the other.

Stephan Schirmier
Krefeld, Germany



The Andrews circus amuses assembled students with the help of Hanley Sayers, Neeley Andrews, and Omar Booker

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October 23, 1996

Features

The Bell Ringer



Why do these albums exist?

V-kamp reviews his least favorite albums

by Adam Vahrenkamp

The past three or four years have produced some terrible albums. There are some albums, though, that are so bad that I have decided to write this article to denounce them. If anybody reading this article owns any of the following garbage, I apologize. I don't understand, but I apologize.

1. *The Downward Spiral* by NINE INCH NAILS.

I love how people today judge talent by such a low standard. Whenever Trent Reznor pushes a few buttons on a computer, gets a few backup musicians, and releases an album full of depressing blather, kids all over the world worship him as if he's a god (or anti-god). His previous release *Broken* had some really good songs on it; *The Downward Spiral* doesn't. If you've ever wanted it, don't get it. If you have it, why?

2. The latest from the CRANBERRIES.

I don't know the title; I don't want to. A man can only take so much peace, love, and badly cracking Irish vocals. But they say I'm free to decide... and I've decided against ever owning this one.

MICHAEL·Renee'

Lifestyle Portraiture Salutes



Scott Denbo

Scott is the State shot put record holder, a Captain of the Varsity football team, and an Eagle Scout

3. *Four* by BLUES TRAVELER.

Wow, a really large, sweaty, scruffy looking man is playing the harmonica while other guys play backup. Some group. In the immortal words of Johnny Rotten of the Sex Pistols, "Boring, boring, boring!"

4. *Cracked Rear View* and *Fairweather Johnson* by HOOTIE AND THE BLOWFISH.

I'm counting these two gems as one album, considering that every song sounds the same. In fact, I think it's all just one big song with pauses every few minutes. They've sold somewhere near 15 million albums. I have a hard time picturing about 15 million or more people who would actually buy these albums. Maybe the band keeps maxing out their own credit cards. Yes, I believe that Hootie bought 90% of the copies of their albums that were on the market.

5. *One Hot Minute* by the RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS.

So this album is what happens when you dance around in your underwear all the time. I remember back in the good old days, when a Coke cost ten cents, people didn't worry about crime in their neighborhood, and the Chili Peppers were good. Then they booted guitarist John Frusciante, went through 137 other guitarists, and decided on Dave Navarro, formerly of Jane's Addiction. What was Flea thinking? Oh wait, dumb question. After all, he runs around in diapers.

6. *Throwing Copper* by LIVE.

With lyrics addressing subjects such as atheism, afterbirth, and mental dilemmas, one might think that the album might contain some very original insights. One would be mistaken. (See Rotten quotation in 6.)

7. *Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness* by THE SMASHING PUMPKINS.

Billy Corgan aka AIDS patient/poster boy bothers me. His music hurts my ears. Sometimes when I hear just a tidbit of this garbage, my stomach starts to writhe, causing me to expunge myself in the closest receptacle.

8. *Under the Table and Dreaming* by the DAVE MATTHEWS BAND.

This album wouldn't be so bad if Dave Matthews wasn't involved. The music's great, but the vocals are terrible. If the band would just kick out Dave and get some random guitar player who can sing, they wouldn't be the Dave Matthews Band. But they would be good - maybe.

9. *Jagged Little Pill* by ALANIS MORISSETTE.

A true classic. There's nothing like the sound of some girl who's hardly lived telling you what to do. I don't care where she goes in a theater. Maybe our neighbors from the Great White North wouldn't mind keeping her where she belongs. Perhaps she's a pre-invasion weapon, polluting our auras with angry girl rock. I'd stay on the lookout for the Canadians.

Well, these are some of the worst albums that I know of. Again, if you happen to like some of these albums, fine. Just don't come crying to me when your ears begin to bleed.



The Bell Ringer

Sports

October 23, 1996

MBA storms past mid-season opposition



Will Bartholomew runs through the hole with the help of Todd Moran's block

Rifle team on target in early season

MBA shoots up opposition at APSU

by Andrew Thomson

On Saturday, October 5, the MBA rifle team embarked upon its first major trip of the season. At six o'clock in the morning, the shooters loaded their gear and headed to Clarksville to compete in a match at Austin Peay State University.

Four college and one high school team competed in this match. The very tiring course of fire consisted of forty shots in the standing position. The MBA team proved its worth again, beating Clarksville Northwest by several points and outshooting the Moorehouse College team. Although the team from UT Martin claimed first place, every member of the Big Red shot ex-

ceptionally well, most shooting their best scores ever.

The MBA rifle team has developed a great deal of experience and skill this year. Even though top shooter David Gregory graduated, the Big Red fields a stronger team than last year. Captain Andrew Esterday and experienced marksmen Andy Gaffner, Jared Lostetter, and Andrew Thomson are joined by sophomore Patten Fuqua and eighth-grader Clay Collier. The Big Red expects to compete for the state and national titles.

MBA expects many more successes and is looking forward to a strong season. The Big Red has matches lined up throughout the fall and will be hosting ten teams from ten different Southern states in the MBA Fall Classic on October 19.

Big Red spoils CBH's 1st game in new stadium

by Stephan Marler

After a one-and-one start that vaguely resembled the Big Red's season of a year ago, the football team shook off feelings of *déjà vu* and psyched themselves up for a run of region games. Followed by an entourage of loyal fans, the Big Red traveled to Hunters Lane where Max Fuller, fresh off a week's rest, performed brilliantly, rushing for two touchdowns. Next on the schedule was Henry County, and the outcome was never in doubt as Paul Russell's diving touchdown catch sealed the victory. After this huge region win, MBA took a rest driving to Clarksville. MBA answered Northwest's speed with punishing defense, which rarely stayed on the field for more than four plays. Much of the offense was left to two newly discovered backs, Hanley Sayers and David Macintosh, who broke for TD runs of 48 and 19 yards, respectively. Inspired by Coach Caudill, MBA defeated Dickson County with the two-headed monster of Blake Sloan and Max Fuller. The gruesome twosome conspired for five TDs. The Big

Red defense chalked up another shutout, and Sayers finished off his own drive with a one-yard TD run. As the Dickson fans left to reopen the Wal-Mart, Joe Pat McGuigan claimed his position as heir to John Markham by adding the extra point.

After another long bus trip to Memphis, MBA was psyched for a battle with Christian Brothers at CBHS's brand new stadium. The defense was able to keep the game locked at 0-0 as the Big Red offense toyed with the Purple Wave. "It was beautiful, man," said split end Andrew Smaldone. "We set 'em up all game with the run, and then we threw the bomb!" The bomb was a 63-yarder from Max Fuller to Michael Eskind. CBHS fought hard to come back, but was unable to, as the Big Red offense ate up the remaining five minutes of the game, taking it to the Max as time ran out.

The Big Red next traveled to Whites Creek. M.B.A. was led by the defense, who shut out the Creek. The offense added twenty-eight points as MBA rolled to victory. The Big Red win together with a Northeast loss moves the M.B.A. into a tie for first place in the region. The next two games against Hillsboro and Clarksville will determine whether M.B.A. claims its first Region 6-5A title.

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Who makes and gets the money in athletics?

The answer may surprise you

by Leland Prevost and Russell Taber

People commonly wonder: Where does the athletic fee go? How much of our tuition pays for athletics? How much does each team bring in? Thanks to the helpfulness of the financial know-how of Mr. Jackson, the runway skills of Mr. Tillman, and the poise of Mr. Giola, we are putting an end to much of the confusion.

Each team has its own budget. The coaches can make requests for the needs of their team, either through the school's funding or the Mothers Club aid. Sure, some teams might want a swimming pool, a new track, etc., but each team is given enough to make sure that the coaches are generally satisfied.

What decides how much money a team will get? A lot of people whine about how much team A gets versus team B. We must look deeper than the records of the teams to find the answer. Student participation is a primary factor. For example, football claims 80 guys for varsity, 40 for the freshman team, and 60 "crobies." That's about a third of our entire student body! More students require more money. Also, the equipment necessary for each sport varies both in price range and quantity. For example, the football team's helmets and pads are going to cost more than cross country's jerseys. Each team, therefore, gets financial backing based on its needs. Mr. Jackson declined, however, to specify exact amounts.

Another question: What brings in the most money for our athletic program? summer Sports the \$213,550

athletics was pro-Sports Camp. Most as an addendum to salary. The \$70 about \$56,500, leads the way producing \$33,000 thanks to the sup-Bess Coles and attend every game schools' feelings. derstand the game, and maybe they don't even care, but, dadgummit, they are trying. Another primary revenue-earning sport, basketball, is responsible for another \$4,500. Golf and cross country each bring in . . . uh . . . uhm . . . never mind. The other income is produced through teams' presence in state tournaments or other sporting events.

A portion of the school's total revenue goes to the athletic program. As I mentioned before, the Mothers Club plays a huge role in the upkeep of athletics. The mothers often give the athletic program money earned from the Spaghetti Supper. The Fathers Club is also a considerable factor in the well-being of MBA athletics. For example, the Fathers Club paid for the air conditioning in the weight room and is in the process of reimbursing the school for the concession stand near the baseball field.

Even though cross country might like free pizza on Saturdays, different sports require different things. Football gets more resources than golf, for example, but that does not mean that it is a better or tougher sport. "I would hope," said Coach Tillman, "an athlete who participates in more than one program would see me as equally interested in all the programs." Each sport requires unique skills and (usually) hard work. Spectator support determines the popularity of a sport at MBA. If a thousand people came out to Gaither's and Minkoff's tailgate parties at Streeplechase, cross country would become the spectator sport.

Uterior motives (continued)

quite dangerous to the psyche. To live for a college acceptance letter or a medal is hollow and existential. The student who is motivated by his own desire to perform (to make himself happy with his own accomplishment) will indeed be better off in the long run. He will know the satisfaction and pride of a job well done and be a better person for it. To disavow allegiance to ulterior motives, then, is the first step toward real individualism.

It's easy to criticize my thoughts as Utopian and ignore them. I do not mean to belabor the point, but I do think that the over-involved student is more prevalent than we often realize. MBA has a dynamic student body with a great desire to succeed and excel. Let us not be so blinded by the appeal of saying, "I do X number of things," that we ignore why we wanted to participate in these activities in the first place.



One of the many loyal faces in the crowd

Fly Away with MBA

♦ Germany

Spring Break Trip

see Mr. Womack or Mrs. Porter

♦ Italy & Greece

June 8 - June 28

see Mr. DeYoung or Mrs. Dickerson

♦ United Kingdom

July 10 - July 22

see Dr. Griffith or Dr. Clevents

♦ Hawaii

June 16 - June 25

see Mr. Spiegel

Please respond to the aforementioned teachers as soon as possible because deposits must be made.



The Bell Ringer

Sports

October 23, 1996

Cross Country passes opposition on road to Region



David Dean finishes the race in good form

Team rebounding just in the nick of time

by Russell Taber

Building on a young foundation, MBA's cross country team has had an up-and-down season, but race times are improving. Progress has slowed, however, because of punctuality and poor health.

At the Tennessee Classic on September 21, sophomore David Dean found himself alone at the starting line. When the gun went off, William Lea had just begun making his way to the beginning of the course. He started half a minute late. Following in the freshman's footsteps, Russell Taber began a minute later. Although Dean and fellow sophomores Hunter Verner and Adrian Cameron ran well, MBA suffered badly from the late start and finished 16th with the worst point total in the history of MBA cross country. On a more positive note, virtually every JV runner improved. Adam Johnson, David Pruitt, Patrick Wall, Joe Montgomery, Peter Chen, Keith Bruno, Preston Bottomy, Mason Guiffre, and Michael North all ran their best times of the season.

Vowing to start with the others at the next week's A.F. Bridges race, Lea and Taber made it to the line in time for the gun. MBA's varsity ran well in the largest meet ever held in Tennessee, finishing tenth overall out of seventy-four teams. Pushing and shoving through the field of 464 runners, Dean earned the twenty-first place medal while Lea finished fifty-sixth. The JV, propelled by the speed of junior John Hart and senior Joe Montgomery, who finished first and eighth, respectively, also ran impressively, finishing third overall. Other solid JV runners were Mason Guiffre, Peter Chen, and Raleigh Harwell.

On October 5, MBA took its top fourteen runners north to beautiful Lexington, KY, for the Catholic Invitational. After eating at the Olive Garden with Harpeth Hall the night before, Coach Pruitt told the team that he expected Dean, Lea, Verner, and Cameron to continue to run well. But, with the absence of mono-stricken Taber, Coach Pruitt encouraged one of the other three varsity members—Colin Bonfiglio, Mason Guiffre and Adam Johnson—to step up. Overcoming a knee injury, junior Colin Bonfiglio did just that by taking the team's number five spot. Varsity finished sixth, while the JV seized the third place trophy.

The Big Red competed for the Metro Championship on October 17. In a field of both A, AA, and AAA runners, MBA's varsity grabbed the bronze as Taber, Lea, and Dean all finished in the top twenty. The JV sped to victory on the heels of Montgomery, who cruised into first, Chen, Burish, Wall, and Harwell.

The upcoming month looks bright for MBA cross country. Inspired by Minkoff and Marsh's rowdy tail gate parties, students and other fans have swarmed to the team's larger Saturday meets. Having just three meets left, MBA's runners are becoming more and more focused. With hard work and a little luck, the team may be able to regain the Region title on October 24 and place well at State on November 2.

Golf surges to State competition

Yet bad luck slices MBA hopes

by Andrew Mazzoni

The MBA golf team has surged to a 12-1 record to end the regular season. During this stretch the team has been nearly perfect, with the exception of a tough loss to a talented Ryan squad. The team has been led by senior Morgan Hillenmeyer and junior Matt

Wallace, and sophomore standouts James Greek, Noble Judy, and Brandt Snedeker, who have consistently shot in the mid-30's.

Upon the conclusion of the regular season, the Big Red played in the District Tournament, finishing six strokes behind nemesis Ryan. The Big Red then advanced to the Region, where they defeated Ryan by eight strokes and clinched a spot in the eight-team State Tour-

nament. Snedeker placed first in the Region with a 70, while Noble Judy placed third at 73.

In the tough State Tournament competition, which was held this year at Henry Horton on Tuesday, October 15, MBA finished seventh. Brandt Snedeker was the team's highest placing member in the twentieth slot with scores of 75 and 77.

Patrick Wilson, LG
Morgan Hillenmeyer
4003 Harding Road
Nashville, TN 37205



Region champ Brandt Snedeker